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Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 02247 181508Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 CPR-01 SP-02 INR-10 /039 W
----------059135 181510Z /53
R 171729Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5147

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STADIS//////////////////

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: OVIP ETRD MO
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL USG INVITATION TO GOM MINISTER OF TOURISM
BEN ALI MANSOURI

1. GOM MINISTER OF TOURISM BEN ALI MANSOURI RECENTLY CALLED AMBASSADOR REGARDING LETTER HE HAD RECEIVED FROM USDOC ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR TOURISM CHAVEZ INVITING HIM TO CALL AT CHAVEZ' OFFICE DURING A VISIT MANSOURI WAS SUPPOSED TO BE MAKING TO WASHINGTON IN APRIL. LETTER PROPOSED 11 A.M., MEETING ON APRIL 6, WHICH IF MANSOURI FOUND INCONVENIENT HE COULD CHANGE BY CONTACTING CHAVEZ' SECRETARY (SIC).

2. PERPLEXED BY LETTER, MANSOURI OBSERVED THAT HE HAD HAD NO CURRENT PLANS FOR VISIT TO U.S. AND ASKED AMBASSADOR FOR BACKGROUND ON INVITATION AND HOW HE MIGHT RESPOND TO IT.

3. THIS IS THE SECOND CASE IN LAST FEW WEEKS WHERE AN INVITATION HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO A GOM MINISTER BY A USG DEPARTMENT OF WHICH THE EMBASSY, AND PRESUMABLY STATE, HAD BEEN UNAWARE. IN CASE OF MANSOURI INVITATION, PROBLEM EVEN MORE AWKWARD SINCE RECIPIENT AT A LOSS
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HOW TO RESPOND AND EMBASSY UNABLE TO EXPLAIN CIRCUM-STANCES OR OFFER ADVICE.

4. GOM IS TRADITIONALLY SENSITIVE TO THE NICETIES OF PROTOCOL AND PROCEDURE. INDEED WE RISK CAUSING CONFUSION IF NOT OFFENSE BY SUCH SCATTERSHOT INVITA-TIONS. WE ARE EVEN MORE CONCERNED, HOWEVER, BY THE

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POSSIBILITY OF CROSSING OUR LINES IN SUBSTANTIVE DEALINGS WITH THE GOM AND REDUCING OUR EFFECTIVENESS AND CREDIBILITY. WHILE DOUBTLESS THERE IS AN OVERALL PROBLEM OF INTRA-EXECUTIVE BRANCH COORDINATION THAT TRANSCENDS THESE TWO CASES, WE BELIEVE THAT THE CHAVEZ LETTER MIGHT SERVE AS AN APT EXAMPLE OF A WELL-MEANT BUT COUNTERPRODUCTIVE INITIATIVE.

5. APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ON HOW TO RESPOND TO MANSOURI.
ANDERSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOURISM, MINISTERIAL VISITS, INVITATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Review Content Flags:
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Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: OVIP, ETRD, MO, (MANSOURI, BEN ALI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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